

In the Claims:

Sub B1

1. [Amended] An image forming device comprising:  
an image engine configured to form hard images;  
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition; ~~and~~  
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device;  
a memory; and  
processing circuitry configured to control storage of the data using the memory to provide a history of the environmental conditions to which the image forming device has been exposed.

2. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine is configured to use a consumable to form the hard images, and the interface comprises a memory of the consumable.

3. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the interface comprises a communications interface adapted to communicate with devices external of the image forming device.

4. [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising processing circuitry configured as an embedded web server and configured to communicate the data with respect to a client device external of the image forming device.

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6. [Amended] The device of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to control the storage of the data at a predetermined moment in time.

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1           7.     [Amended] The device of claim 5 1 wherein the processing  
2     circuitry is configured to monitor the data and to control the storage of the data  
3     responsive to the monitoring.

1           8.     [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising an internal  
2     power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an absence of power  
3     from a source external of the image forming device.

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1           9.     [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the environmental sensor  
2     is configured to monitor the at least one environmental condition comprising a  
3     plurality of environmental conditions proximate to the image forming device and  
4     comprising humidity and temperature.

1           10.    [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine  
2     comprises a print engine of the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1           11.    [Amended] A method of operating an image forming device, the  
2     method comprising:

3           providing an image forming device configured to form hard images;  
4           sensing at least one environmental condition of an environment proximate  
5     to the image forming device; and

6           communicating data regarding the at least one environmental condition  
7     externally of the image forming device; and

8           receiving a request within the image forming device from a source  
9     external of the image forming device, and the communicating comprises  
10    communicating responsive to the receiving.

1           12.    [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises  
2     providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable to form hard  
3     images, and the communicating comprises storing the data regarding the at least  
4     one environmental condition using the consumable.

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1 14. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the sensing comprises  
2 sensing a plurality of environmental conditions comprising temperature and  
3 humidity.

1 15. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises  
2 providing the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1 16. [Amended] A method of monitoring an environment proximate to  
2 an image forming device configured to form hard images, the method  
3 comprising:

4 providing an image forming device configured to form hard images and to  
5 monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming  
6 device and to communicate data regarding the at least one environmental  
7 condition externally of the image forming device; and

8 receiving the data regarding the at least one environmental condition from  
9 the image forming device; and

10 analyzing the data regarding the at least one environmental condition after  
11 the receiving to determine a quantitative parameter for the at least one  
12 environmental condition for testing other image forming devices.

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1 18. [Original] The method of claim 16 further comprising  
2 communicating a request to the image forming device, and wherein the  
3 communicating the data is responsive to the communicating the request.

1 19. [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises  
2 providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable, and  
3 wherein the receiving the data comprises extracting the data from the  
4 consumable.

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20. [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises providing the image forming device configured to monitor the at least one environmental condition comprising a plurality of environmental conditions comprising temperature and humidity.

21. [New] An image forming device comprising:  
an image engine configured to form hard images;  
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition;  
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and  
an internal power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an absence of power from a source external of the image forming device.

22. [New] An image forming device comprising:  
an image engine configured to form hard images;  
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition comprising humidity proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition; and  
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device.

23. [New] An image forming device comprising:  
an image engine configured to form hard images;  
an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative of the at least one environmental condition;  
an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and  
wherein the image engine is configured to use a consumable to form the hard images, and the interface comprises a memory of the consumable.

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